

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) AND  
TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS MEETING  
SUMMARY**

**January 27, 2009  
744 P Street, Room 1031  
Sacramento, CA  
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

This document summarizes the key issues discussed at the meeting between Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program Administrators and leaders and CDSS representatives on January 27, 2009.

A summary of the last Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Administrators meeting, on July 15, 2008 was reviewed and approved as written.

**1. The Governor's Budget.**

The Deputy Director for the Welfare-to-Work Division reviewed the status of the budget. Currently, it is our understanding that advances to the counties and Tribal TANF programs will be suspended pending a budget agreement. Based on that understanding, we assume regular claims such as reimbursements to Tribal TANF programs for expenses already incurred should not be affected at this time.

The Deputy Director also provided a summary of proposed CalWORKs budget change, which included a 10% grant cut, and a reduction by \$60 million to counties' allocation.

**2. Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) Data and Welfare Data Tracking Implementation Project / Tracking Recipients Across California (WDTIP/ TRAC) Update.**

- Glenn Basconcillo reported that Tribal TANF representatives continue to meet and discuss data elements needed and the justifications needed.
- Jeff Adge (CDSS) stated that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) would like the data elements requested (and justifications) before they can provide an implementation time-frame for Tribal TANF programs to gain access to the MEDS Light system and determine the best course of action. The implementation for MEDS Light itself was estimated at one year.

**3. Department of Child Support Services Overview.**

Bill Otterbeck, Deputy Director from the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) gave an overview of the Child Support Enforcement Program.

- See handout on presentation (attached).
- A representative from California Tribal TANF Partnership (CTTP) asked whether there were any models for creating and implementing Tribal IV-D programs. It was noted that there are at least 30 Tribes in the United States that have operational IV-D programs, none in California.
- A representative from Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC) commented that Fresno County works well with OVCDC on Child Support referrals but that the level of cooperation varied from county to county. Fresno

County and OVCDC have partnered to educate both Tribal TANF and county staff in regards to each others' programs.

- DCSS sent out a survey to local child support agencies (LCSAs) to gather baseline data about LCSA and Tribal relations.
- A question was raised regarding how many American Indians are served by Child Support. It is unknown as caseload data is not collected by ethnicity.
- It was suggested that DCSS issue a letter to LCSAs to inform them of the roles and relationships between Tribal TANF and the LCSAs.

**Action:** 1) DCSS will provide a list of Child Support ombudsmen; and 2) DCSS will provide a contact person for its programs and ensure that there is Tribal TANF input into the DCSS-LCSA workgroup, Working Effectively with Tribal Governments.

#### **4. Updates**

- CDSS reiterated that there should be no co-mingling of federal and state Tribal TANF funds and that only state funds may be used for the children of timed-out parents.
- A question was raised regarding the effect on the Tribal TANF program's work participation rates (WPRs) in cases where the children of parents who have reached the 60 month TANF time-limit are continued to be served by the Tribal TANF program. In TANF the parents of "safety net" children continue to be factored into the county's WPR. Will this also apply to the Tribal TANF program's WPR?

**Action:** CDSS will research this question in collaboration with ACF.

- The Tribal TANF Administrators Primer is now online.

#### **5. Proposed Dates for 2009 Tribal TANF Administrators Meetings.**

The new meeting dates are as follows:

- April 14, 2009
- July 14, 2009
- October 13, 2009

The Tribal TANF Administrators/CDSS meetings will be held at 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 in room 1031 from 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Sign-in Sheet
- Department of Child Support Services handouts